

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.2% (237) reside in the Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (45) of Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.2% of admissions from the Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District were male and 25.7% were female.
- Over 48.9% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 85.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 5% were black non-Latino, 5% were Latino, and 0.4% were Asian and 4.2% were other racial categories.
- 67.5% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 15.1% were married, and 10.5% reported not to be married now.
- 29.1% of admissions had less than high school education, 39.2% completed high school, and 31.6% had more than high school education.
- 57.8% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 4.6% of those admitted were homeless.
- 8% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	177	156	49	25	16	16	16
FY '96	178	161	79	22	7	16	7
FY '97	167	152	65	31	19	17	11
FY '98	217	197	80	25	13	27	19
FY '99	230	200	85	28	13	20	13
FY '00	224	203	84	37	17	20	17
FY '01	237	202	92	43	20	42	28

- Since FY 1995, residents of Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District reported an increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 29%, marijuana by 87%, cocaine by 72%, crack by 25%, and heroin use by 162%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirteenth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	61.1%	13.9%	17.3%	2.5%	1.2%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and marijuana was higher within your District.